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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE



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Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Dept. review completed

Top Secret

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29 January 1968

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Approved For Release 2003/09/26 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010700220001-8

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Cuba: The three-day meeting of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party ended yesterday with the announcement that 11 members of the party had been purged.

According to Radio Havana, those purged opposed Fidel Castro's guerrilla warfare policies and were part of a "microfaction" opposed to the ideology of the Cuban revolution. Two of the dissidents, Ramon Calcinés and Jose Matar, were dismissed from the central committee. All apparently have been expelled from the party and have been turned over to revolutionary tribunals for trial.

The Castro doctrine of "armed struggle" was again endorsed by the central committee members, and a statement of support and solidarity with North Vietnam was issued. At the conclusion of the plenum, in a gesture underlining the importance of this doctrine, all participants observed a minute in silence in memory of Cubans "who have fallen in the fulfillment of their internationalist duties in the struggle against imperialism."

The central committee meeting also ratified an earlier decision by the political bureau not to send a delegation to the scheduled international Communist conference at Budapest, and pledged to conserve fuel and construction materials so that the country's economic development can continue.

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NOTES

France: [The French Government has served notice that it may not allow US military overflights in some cases. A note approving the 1968 US program for overflights of France stipulates for the first time that in "exceptional circumstances" France may suspend authorization of US flights to and from Spain, North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. The note provides that where suspension would seriously affect US interests, the US may seek a solution through diplomatic discussions.]

[REDACTED]

Jordan-Israel: [King Husayn will attempt to convince Iraqi President Arif that Iraq should abandon its encouragement of terrorism against Israel and urge Arif to withdraw the Iraqi forces stationed in Jordan. Members of the Iraqi forces there have been giving aid to terrorists, and only last week Jordanian forces intercepted an Iraqi Army truck filled with terrorists. Husayn's prospects for a withdrawal appear limited, since the troops in Jordan are an important symbol of Iraqi solidarity with the Arabs against Israel. Arif also has strong feelings against Israel and the troops' presence in Jordan bolsters his image.]

[REDACTED]

USSR: Final figures released by Moscow on economic performance in 1967 indicate that industrial output in the fourth quarter failed to maintain the moderate rate of acceleration noted during the first nine months of the year. As a result, industrial production last year grew at about the same rate as in 1966. Because of less favorable weather, the output of farm products was below the record 1966 level, but the grain harvest was large enough to meet domestic needs and to provide for a modest export surplus.

[REDACTED]

The Netherlands: [The sharpest confrontation yet over Vietnam between the Dutch government and the second chamber of parliament is likely to occur during the foreign affairs debate scheduled to begin on 6 February. Popular antiwar sentiment is growing and members of the second chamber are under great pressure to support a motion calling on the government to request the US to stop the bombing of North Vietnam. If such a motion carried, Prime Minister De Jong and Foreign Minister Luns say the cabinet would resign.]

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Bulgaria: Recurrent rumors of a currency exchange and restrictions on bank withdrawals have increased the irritation of the public, already disgruntled by the 1 January hike in consumer prices. The regime reportedly strengthened the militia when it sanctioned new price schedules, and is clearly willing to risk alienating the populace in order to improve its ailing economy. The Bulgarian finance minister announced on 24 January that savings accounts would not be frozen, but this will probably not appease the populace whose dissatisfaction reportedly has taken the form of work slowdowns and boycotts of certain products.

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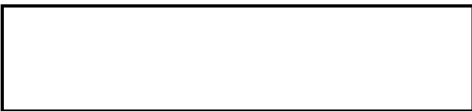
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